(c) whether the Embassy of India has made any arrangements to bring the grievances of Indian labourers to the notice of such committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would consider to take initiative for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMAD): (a) No.

(b) Our Embassy in Oman has been informed during meetings at various levels about the constitution of a high level committee by Oman to look into cases of non payment of wages and other issues pertaining to foreign workers in Oman.

(c) and (d) The Embassy of India in Oman regularly brings all issues pertaining to Indian workers in Oman to the attention of Government in Oman. These matters are also taken up with the authorities in Oman during Ministerial and high-level official visits.

No-Negotiation policy with kidnappers

355. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of no-nonsense policy on hostage and kidnapping situations, Government had announced, long time back, that it is formlating a policy of "no negotiations" with kidnappers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No two hostage of kidnapping situations are entirely similar, and different responses may be required depending upon specific circumstances.

Government of India believes in not compromising with hostage takers and kidnappers. However, while adhering to this principle, the objective of the Government is to ensure the safety and well being of all Indian citizens, whether in India or abroad. In such situations, Government makes all efforts possible to secure the early and safe release of Indian nationals who may have been kidnapped or taken hostage.

In order to deal with hostage situations, the Government have an institutionalized mechanism in place. There is a Crisis Management Group, which is set up immediately and is tasked with the constant monitoring and handling of the situation in close consultation with concerned agencies, our diplomatic missions abroad and with foreign Governments. The Cabinet Secretary also holds a parallel set of inter-ministerial meetings, as required, to take appropriate decision. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs may also meet, as necessary, to review the situation and take appropriate decisions. This mechanism remains inforce until the crisis ends.

Development of Road Transport in Tibet by China

356. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that China nearly doubled the length of its road transport network in Tibet to nearly 40,000 km. over the last decade;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the state of infrastructure in India along the border is awful and it is the result of Government's policy of not developing connectivity along the frontiers; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government attaches importance to development of infrastructure in India's border areas. Our infrastructure development plans in the border areas are in place and the same is reviewed from time to time. While certain border roads are already under construction, others are in planning stage.